Nodal Agency to Monitor Criminal Cases

1672. SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had set up a nodal agency to monitor the cases relating to the nexus between criminals and politicians in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of cases examined by the said Nodal Agency so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (c) In pursuance of the Vohra Committee's recommendation a Nodal Group was set up under the Chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary and with Home Secretary, Secretary (Revenue), Secretary (RAW), Director (IB) and Director (CBI) as Members. The Nodal Group in its meetings generally reviews the information available with the different agencies relating to the activities of major crime syndicates and the course of action to be taken by the field formations. The Question of inter-agency coordination and inter-agency support in the pursuit of cases as per law is considered and appropriate decisions taken with regard to requirements of such support and cooperation.

Animals Frolicking in Slime

1673. SHRI MANGAL RAM PREMI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Stench, animals frolicking in slime—welcome to Delhi Zoo" appearing in the 'Times of India' dated December 26, 1996;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government to the points brought out there ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The wet moats are connected to Zoo enclosures and acts as a physical barrier between visitors and the animals. The water poured into the moat system is from deep tube-well which is saline in nature and forms a foamy layer on the water surface. The water in the moats is not meant for drinking by animals. Animals are provided potable water for drinking purposes. However, while going for bath etc., licking of water by some animals can not be ruled out. A team of the staff and labour regularly cleans the moat system which is about 7.5 kms.

Lead free petrol is sprinkled to stop breeding of mosquitoes. The ground level of the Zoo being quite low receives rain water alongwith the run off from the adjoining areas, and that gets accumulated into moat system, which is periodically removed to maintain proper depth.

(c) Central Government have made funds available to National Zoological Park for cleaning of moat and pond system and major renovations. Since there is scarcity of quality water, some portions of the moat system which are not obligatory to the biological requirement of the animals are in the process of conversion to dry moat.

Import of Oilseed

1674. SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Organisation for Oil Industry and Trade has sent its report to the Government on the import of oilseed;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Some of the points made by the Central Organisation for Oil Industry and Trade in their representation for import of oilseeds are :—

(i) Import of oilseeds be placed under OGL as in the case of edible oil imports.

(ii) Processing of imported oilseeds would generate additional employment opportunities.

(iii) It will increase availability of edible oils as also foreign exchange earnings through export of extractions.

(iv) There would be no adverse impact on oilseeds production as the market prices of oilseeds have been ruling higher than the minimum support prices, etc.

(c) A final decision in the matter is yet to be taken.

[Translation]

Atrocities on SC/ST

1675. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :